

R.M.S. Imperator has arrived from the north, and is lying in the wharf. She will enter the harbour to-morrow evening. **R.M.S. Rattler** arrived from Amoy this morning. H.E. the Admiral Sir E. Fremantle is due here in the *Albion* on December 8.

Yesterday afternoon by the bursting of a steam-pipe on board the river steamer *Kwong Hoi* at Canton three men were severely scalded. Two Chinese were taken to the Civil Hospital, but the second engineer, Mr. Spinks, was taken to his own home.

Yesterday afternoon Captain Hastings held an enquiry into the circumstances of the fire in a shop at No. 22, The Mei Lane on Monday, 29th November. The contents of the shop were insured for \$5,500 with Messrs. Fitchell and Co., who were represented at the enquiry by Mr. G. J. Phillips. His Worship found that the fire was caused by the upsetting of a kerosene lamp, and that from the evidence it did not appear that the stock was worth more than \$1000.

At the Magistrate's morning Peter Macintosh was charged before Mr. H. E. Wedhouse with deserting from the Hongkong Police Force on 23rd February, 1891. Inspector Hanson said the accused was sworn in as a constable for five years on 9th November, 1886. While in the police the character of the accused was not good. The accused pleaded guilty. He stated he was under the influence of liquor when he deserted. He had been in the New South Wales Artillery, and had now been discharged. He produced his papers and other certificates of character. The accused came up from Australia in the steamer *Avic*, and was on his way to Shanghai. He was fined \$50.

We take the following from the *London China Express*:—The *Centurion*, which is to be the new flagship of H.M.'s Squadron on the China Station, seems to be a very fine specimen of a ship. It is a ship that a few more of the same class of ship are not put in at the dockyard. A naval correspondent writes:—It is with much regret that I hear Sir Joseph Whitworth and Company have been compelled to inform the authorities at Portsmouth Dockyard that in consequence of the coal strike they will probably be compelled to delay the supply of the new pattern mountings for the four 20-ton guns of the *Centurion*, the launch intended to deliver the *Imperator* as flagship on the China Station. The advent of the *Centurion* at Hongkong will be one of the best possible answers to the Franco-Russian demonstrations at Toulon and in Paris.

Dr. Playfair, who attended the Princess Marie of Roumania at her recent marriage, has returned from Sicily to London. Before his departure he was presented by the King with a magnificent gold snuff-box and the insignia of a grand officer of the Order of the Crown of Roumania.

The *Tsusho* of Tsubawa, the Shan chieftain who has lately been on a visit to Great Britain has just started for the East, travelling via Colombo and Calcutta. The Shan great away highly gratified with the reception accorded him. He was particularly pleased with the manner in which he was received by Her Majesty at Balmoral. One of his sons is being educated at Rugby.

The London and China Express of 27th October:—The 21st being the anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar, the Victory, flagship of Lord Nelson, was, in accordance with custom, dressed with evergreens, garlands being hung at the mastshead and trucks of the hull, and the ship was illuminated. The ship was in the harbour at Portsmouth. The spot when the hero fell was marked by a wreath, and also the cockpit in which he died. Admiral Sir Henry Chichester presided at the annual meeting of the Royal Naval Association, which was held at Portsmouth. The speaker was Admiral Sir Lewis Jones, who is nearing his ninety-sixth birthday spoke to one of the resolutions. It was announced that the Duke and Duchess of York had consented to become patron and patroness of the home.

Mr. Labouchere, in *Truth*, says:—No body in a position of authority has been good enough to reply to my request for information as to whether the Viceroy and the Indian Commissioner-in-Chief are privileged to receive money from the Government. I received, however, from all sides assurances that it is 'generally understood' that this arrangement is in force. A correspondent goes so far as to assert that one of the recent Viceroys remitted home the whole of his salary at this rate, getting £17,717 for every £100, and then had it remitted back to him at this enhanced value. This beautiful story will appeal specially to Anglo-Indian limited means who have been so long appealing to the Government for assistance in their financial straits. The method of this gang was that, as soon as the children (who had been stolen) were sufficiently decorated they were sold to other persons for begging purposes. It may be hoped that the perpetrators of this ghastly trade will not be suffered to escape without receiving the maximum penalty allowed by the law.

A horrible story comes from Biskupitz, in Austria, of a gang of men who caught young children and purposely inflicted various injuries upon them by which they became maimed for begging purposes. On the arrest of the men several helpless children were found in the house with fractured arms and legs, bound in positions which could only lead to gross deformity. It is even stated that one little girl had suffered removal of both her eyes. Investigation of the basement of the house also resulted in the discovery of many appliances which had been designed for the production of deformities. The method of this gang was that, as soon as the children (who had been stolen) were sufficiently decorated they were sold to other persons for begging purposes. It may be hoped that the perpetrators of this ghastly trade will not be suffered to escape without receiving the maximum penalty allowed by the law.

THE BISHOP IN JAPAN and Mrs. Hestereth left Liverpool on 21st ult. by the steamer *Yamato* for the Pacific. The Canadian Pacific steamer from Vancouver on 18th ult., and were expected to arrive in Japan about the 26th of November.

CHINA PLAYERS, with a turn for the history of their strategic amusements, will be interested to learn that all the hypotheses as to the origin of the game have recently been 'mated' by a recent extraordinary discovery in Egypt. It was generally assumed until now that the ancient Indians had invented chess; that it was introduced from India to Persia in the sixth century; and that by the Arabs, and in consequence of the Crusades, it spread from East to West. But here comes news of the latest excavations on the pyramid field of Saklari, which have brought to light a wall painting, on which a high official is represented as playing chess with a partner at the time of the government of King Tutu, who belonged to the sixth dynasty. Professor Lepsius formerly assigned the reign of that monarch to about the year 2700 B.C. Professor Knigge, according to this chronology, puts it back to still greater antiquity, namely, to the year 3500 B.C. So that chess would have been known in the most mysterious land of Mizion something like 5,200 years ago.

THE ALLEGED INCENDIARISM AT QUEEN'S ROAD.

At the Magistrate's yesterday, before Mr. H. E. Wedhouse, Lai Kit and Au Yat Chuen, first and second accusants of the papershop at 314 Queen's Road Central, were charged with 'unlawfully and maliciously setting fire to No. 314 Queen's Road Central, there being at the time some persons therein.'

Mr. G. C. C. Master appeared in person on behalf of the Crown Solicitor, and Mr. C. D. Wilkinson appeared on behalf of the accused.

Chun Yik Cheung stated—I am master of a gold and silver smith shop at No. 314 Queen's Road Central. On Nov. 22nd at 11 p.m. I went home to my family house in sleep, which is No. 316 Queen's Road Central. I slept until 2 a.m. and then got up, opened the door of my room on the second floor and slept in the passage. I noticed a strong smell of kerosene oil and I then opened a window looking on to Queen's Road. I could not see anything, but the odour of kerosene oil was strong, and I then went into the kitchen, where the smell was still present. It seemed to come from the skylight. I got a ladder and went out on to the roof, from where I noticed a window open on the third floor of 314, Queen's Road Central. Seeing a light in it I peeped through the window and inside the room I saw a heap of paper on the floor over a grate. There was a coil on which an opium lamp was burning and I saw the first prisoner light a cigarette at the lamp and apply it to the heap of paper on the floor, which immediately blazed up. Then I became frightened and ran away. The first prisoner is the only man I saw in the room. When I first looked into the room the heap of paper was already there, and I seemed to me that the smell of kerosene came from there, because it was stronger just by the window. I did not look into the room very carefully and I cannot say whether it contained any goods. When I ran away I crossed the house at once, and I did not see what became of the first prisoner. His name is Lai Kit, and he is a resident in the paper shop at No. 314 Queen's Road Central. I do not know the second prisoner, but I have seen him in the street many times. I have known the first prisoner for three or four years.

Mr. A. Turner, architect, of Messrs. Palmer and Turner, was next called to prove several plans.

Chun Yik Cheung, resumed, said—I saw at 5.30 a.m. on the morning of the 23rd, I was sleeping on the second floor of No. 316, in the front room.

Further examined by Mr. Justice—I saw a heap of paper, when I looked through the window of No. 314, on the second floor. Part of the heap was over a grate, and part of it was on the floor. The paper was saturated and a very strong smell of kerosene pervaded the place. Lai Kit was standing over it with a paper stick in his hand. He lit the paper with the stick, and it blazed so quickly that I saw smoke coming out between the moment that I first saw Lai Kit and the moment that he applied the light.

I was asked to adjourn till Monday next. For the first prisoner bail was refused; and the second was allowed bail in two sureties of \$50 each.

THEFT OF LETTERS FROM THE TAIKOO HON.

Before Mr. H. E. Wedhouse at the Magistrate's this morning, Wong Yau Sang, seaman, was charged with stealing two letters, one containing a cheque for \$290.30, the property of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, from their office in Battery Road, on the 25th November.

He pleaded not guilty.

Mok Ng Chan stated—I am shroff to Messrs. Butterfield and Swire. On the 25th November at 10.45 a.m. the defendant brought a cheque to me and said he had picked it up, and asked me to give him a 'chanshaw.' It is a cheque for \$290.30, payable to Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, dated 25th November, 1893. I took him to Mr. Forsyth, who took him to the manager. The manager gave orders to have the defendant detained.

Mr. Stephen Forsyth, clerk to Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, stated—I have charge of the South China Company. Shortly after noon the shroff came to me and asked if I had lost a cheque. I replied I had not. At the same time I recognised a cheque in his hand which I had been expecting from Messrs. Schomburgk and Co. Hojow, I asked him where he got it and he brought in the defendant, who stated he had picked it up in Battery Road. I then went to Mr. Scott, our manager, to see if he had received any letters from Hojow and he said he had not. I know the handwriting in the cheque very well. It is from our usual correspondent in Hongkong. Subsequently, when the two letters in Court, I recognised one as a letter from Schomburgk and Co. The other, I understand, is a letter from Canton. The letters are addressed to Messrs. Butterfield

and Swire, Hongkong. The letter from Hojow advises the enclosure of the cheque. When I saw the Chinese endorsement on the back of the cheque I asked the shroff what it meant. He told me the enclosed stated he took the cheque from the shroff, and he endorsed it. Payment was refused, and he then brought the cheque to us.

Inspector Hennessy—I think it would be necessary to call the assistant manager of Butterfield and Swire to state that the letters were not opened in the usual way. It appears that yesterday morning early the shroff from the Post Office left the letters in the shroff of Butterfield and Swire's office, and it is supposed that the accused had been there and had stolen the letters and had not picked them up in Battery Road as he says he did.

Ng Hen stated I am a postman at the General Post Office. I see the two letters in Court. I do not recognise them because they were tied together.

His Worship—You don't know what you did with them?—I saved them, and I put them in a box. I dropped them in a box—Yes; in the office.

Can you identify the letters?—I did not take any particular notice. I had got several letters. There were three or four letters tied up together.

You cannot say whether these two letters were two of them?—I cannot.

Mr. Forsyth—This is a sort of shroff. He has with him and the rule is that letters have to be delivered to the office. It is negligence on the part of the Post Office officials if they deliver letters into this shroff.

His Worship—Then those letters were not yours?—No.

Mr. W. P. P. The Post Office could not deliver them to anybody in our office, and nobody in the office saw them. The shroff apparently left them downstairs on the table where anybody could have taken them. The evidence is that they were delivered to some responsible person in the office.

Mr. Forsyth—(re-called)—What is this letter box?—It is not a letter box. It is a kind of shroff for taking up chit books from the basement to the first floor.

Where is the shroff?—The shroff goes down from the first or office floor on to a sort of table or platform on the basement passage, also beside the entrance door.

Any letters from this shroff would fall on to the table?—Yes.

There is a table beside the door, and there is a frame-work which goes up to an apartment on the upper floor.

On the shroff there are two boxes, one ascending and the other descending, and the shroff should be used only for chit books.

The boy drops them into the box and it goes down to where the shroff is waiting.

Anything put into this shroff remains in the box on the platform near the door?—Yes.

Does the postman go upstairs?—The shroff is not for letters at all.

He says he put the letters into the box?—Yes.

And he did not take them upstairs at all?—Evidently not. The letters may have been abstracted from the box early in the morning.

So long as the box remains on the platform it is possible for anybody to take out the contents?—Yes.

Is there anything on the shroff except the two letters?—No, so far as I can see.

The Post Office official talks of taking four letters to your office—has any other letter been missed?—No, that I am aware of.

Do you know the prisoner?—I never saw him before he was brought in yesterday.

Mr. Walter Foster, assistant manager to Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, stated—I see the two letters in Court. The shroff is a kind of shroff for chit books in Canton. The letters have been opened, but not by me. Letters have to be opened either by Mr. Scott or by myself in the private office. I know these letters were opened by me because I have seen the shroff on the way to the office. The shroff is a kind of shroff for chit books in Canton.

Do you occupy an office in common with Mr. Scott?—I sit at the same desk facing him.

His Worship—I do not see that this evidence is material.

Inspector Hennessy—The letters were found in the private office. The shroff is a kind of shroff for chit books in Canton. The letters have been opened, but not by me. Letters have to be opened either by Mr. Scott or by myself in the private office. I know these letters were opened by me because I have seen the shroff on the way to the office. The shroff is a kind of shroff for chit books in Canton.

Mr. Scott—I do not see that this evidence is material.

His Worship—I do not see that this evidence is material.

SUPREMACY OF THE CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

(Before His Honour Mr. Fielding Clarke, Chief Justice.)

Thursday, November 30.

ALLEGED THEFT OF NOISES.

Ho Yu Shang, complainant, was charged with stealing two batons of noises from the steamer *Danfong*.

Ho pleaded not guilty.

The following jurymen were empanelled:—Messrs J. A. Cardno, E. D. Sanders, J. Brown, J. Kelly, C. H. Thompson, D. Cronin, and Paul Grant.

Mr. C. J. Leach, Q.C., instructed by Mr. G. C. C. Master, prosecutor, and Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., instructed by Mr. H. L. Donny, defended the accused.

After a great deal of evidence had been taken the sessions was adjourned.

ST. ANDREW'S DAY.

Approves of St. Andrew's Day which is being celebrated by the Scotch community to-day, we give the following somewhat amusing skit, which will do credit to many of our readers. It originally appeared under the heading 'St. Andrew in Calcutta':—

1. It came to pass in the year 600 thousand eight hundred and four score and one in the City of Palaces, dwelt certain wise men from the far country beyond the great sea.

2. In that year the rulers of the city did that which was right in their own eyes.

3. Now these wise men assembled themselves together, and they said one to another: Go to, let us remember our brethren who have left.

4. For behold we are in a far country, and it shall come to pass that men shall say of us: Ye be lawless on the earth, ye have fled from the land of your nativity because the hands of your rulers were against you, therefore will we do: we will make a great feast so that the nose of whomever smelleth it shall tingle, and we will call to mind the ancient days and the mighty deeds of our fathers.

5. So they appeared on a day, and many were gathered together, a mixed multitude from the land of ekes and of thistles, from the west and from the north, and from the land of the sea.

6. And, behold, a great feast was prepared, and in that feast many ministers were present, and a ruler of the feast was appointed and sat in their midst.

7. And forthwith to each man was given a writing of the things of the feast, and the writing was in a tongue no man could understand.

8. And the words of the feast, which signified the heathen tongue, a frog.

9. And some there were who pretended to know the writing and the interpretation thereof. Now these were hypocrites, for they knew but little of the writing, and they were very foolish.

10. And the dishes no man could number; the people sat mightily as it were the space of one hour, and no man spoke to his neighbour till he had eaten and drunk.

11. And while they did eat, behold there drew near three mighty men of valor, clothed in many colored garments. And they bore in their arms musical instruments shaped like unto a host of prey.

12. And they began to sing, and they sang the words of the feast, and straightway came there forth a shrike and a scold, and they were the howlings of the damned.

13. And the hearts of the people were comforted, for this is that wherein their great strength lieth.

14. And wine was poured in vessels, but the children of the world would none of this, for they quothed their thirst with the dew of the mountain, which is the water of life.

15. And some spake the wise men of the congregation unto them, and called to mind the ancient days and the mighty deeds of their fathers, and the people rejoiced exceedingly.

16. Now it came to pass when they had eaten and drunk, and were merry, and the king of the feast was crowned, and he was crowned with a crown of thorns.

17. And the ruler of the feast fed in his house, and a third part remained, saying, I think I have a resolution in mind to play.

18. And they played after the fashion of their country; and their movements resembled the peregrinations of a hen upon a grill with a stick in her beak.

19. Now, as for them that were thirsty, their drinking was steady, but their limbs were not so. Yea, they also shouted for joy and sang merrily.

20. And they came to pass when they had eaten and drunk, and were merry, and the king of the feast was crowned, and he was crowned with a crown of thorns.

TONG-KING COAL.

A French paper, referring to the successful results of the recent trials of the big steamers manufactured by the *South de France* at Hongkong, says that following the great steam navigation companies the French Navy has had equally satisfactory experiences, in consequence of which it has ordered for 15,000 tons of coal.

A San Francisco firm has given an order for 25,000 tons to be tried on the railways of the United States. It is satisfactory to note that these trials, the prospect of which is growing daily, are valued not only by the French, but also by foreign firms. M. de Lanson, in a letter which he has addressed to the *Globe*, recalls the fact that at Hongkong the steamer *de France* has not hesitated to put in the mines of Hongkong a petual capital of eight millions. The Governor-General adds that the mines of Hongkong have at last entered upon the period of commercial production, as from 600 to 600 tons are extracted daily. He also notes progress in other directions. Their mechanical matches have forced Japanese manufacturers to lower their prices, although they have only just been introduced. He also contrasts the condition of Tong-King when he first arrived there, with the present state of affairs. To-day, he says, the Delta is as tranquil as the department of the Gironde, and since the commencement of 1892 the situation has gone on improving. Proceeding with his glowing description, he says that the military territories are for the most part pacified. There are no great pirate bands, and the smaller ones have been dispersed. Altogether M. de Lanson thinks the great progress could not have been greater than it has been.

SURGERY IN CHINA.

In a recent issue of the *China Medical Missionary Journal*, published in Shanghai, Dr. J. C. Thomson has a very interesting article on surgery in China, referring to the great efforts of the Chinese to improve surgical operations. Dr. Thomson says that even now it is frequently put to the test in circumstances where surgeons in isolated situations are compelled to undertake operations unaided, or where otherwise the employment of a surgeon is impracticable, and in the minor operations of surgery.

When we tested the Chinese man who endures without flinching a degree of pain that to the more highly developed nervous system of the Westerner would be well-nigh impossible, we experienced also a surprise to confirm the general testimony regarding the remarkable recuperative power of the Chinese after surgical injuries. The reasons he suggests are the simpler feeding habits of the Chinese, the more copious use of stimulants, such as opium, and the more equable mental constitution. With reference to the Chinese surgeons who have already been trained by the medical missionaries Dr. Thomson says his observation of these men leads him to the conviction that the Chinese are fitted to take at least a respectable place as surgeons, and that in time coming, when Chinese surgery will give favorable results. The progress is slow, but it is steady.

SEA POWER.

Saturday October 29 was the anniversary of Trafalgar. A letter addressed to the *Times* by 'A Student of Naval History' has called forth the following pertinent reflection in that journal:—

It has been reserved for an American writer to show us almost for the first time, what 'Sea Power' really is, and what its influence has been on the history and civilization of the modern world. By his pregnant conception of 'Sea Power' and his masterly exposition of its influence upon history, especially upon the history of the British Isles, Captain Mahan may almost be said to have effected a revolution in the study of naval history similar in kind to that effected by Copernicus in the domain of astronomy. It is not difficult to trace the influence of this writer's teaching in the letter of 'A Student of Naval History.'

'A Student of Naval History' writes that it was not till we read that failed, but Napoleon was vanquished; not Nelson that won, but England that was saved.

The tactics at Trafalgar, while open to criticism in detail, were in their main features conformable to the principles of naval warfare, and their audacity was justified as well by the urgency of the case as by the results; but the great lessons of efficiency in preparation, of activity and energy in execution, and of thought and insight on the part of the commander, are the lessons which are strategic lessons, and as such they still remain good.

It is virtually on this text that 'A Student of Naval History' takes up his pen. Trafalgar was fought and won, by a fleet inferior in numbers to the enemy, and in armament, and by tactics open to criticism, not merely because Nelson was the greatest naval leader the world has ever seen, but because he devoted all the powers of his unique genius to the patient study of the modern world, and he adapted to the circumstances of the day the lessons of the past.

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NEWS BY THE FRENCH MAIL.

MOROCCO TO INDEPENDENT SPAIN.

Madrid, November 9.—A note has been received from the Sultan of Morocco promising to fully satisfy Spain for the attack on Melilla, and to send a force to punish the Rif.

THE NAVAL QUESTION.

London, November 12.—Lord George Hamilton, speaking at Harrow yesterday, said the different foreign nations were making great naval progress; and that, unless Great Britain made an immediate effort, she would be at a disadvantage next year.

BOMBARDMENT OF RIO JANEIRO.

London, November 13.—Latest advices from Rio Janeiro state that the bombardment of the town has been renewed with vigour by the rebel fleet. The banks are closed, and other warships protect the shipping.

A NEW MISERY IN AUSTRIA.

Vienna, November 12.—Herr Windischgratz has formed a new Conservative Austrian Ministry.

THE FRENCH IN MONTENEGRO.

London, November 13.—The *Times* Bangkok correspondent telegraphs that the French have shot some Montenegrins for refusing to carry out roadmaking along the Mekong, and that the tribesmen are in consequence furious. The entire hill country of Montenegro is full of revolt, which the French forces are unable to suppress, the native soldiery in the French service being in a state of mutiny.

HONOUR FOR THE DUKE OF KIDDERBURY.

Intimations.

THE CHINESE MAIL

(Wah Tat Po.)

THIS paper is now issued every day. The subscription is fixed at Five Dollars per annum delivered in Hongkong, or Eleven Dollars Forty Cents including postage to Coast ports.

It is the first Chinese Newspaper ever issued under purely native direction. The chief support of the paper is of course derived from the native community, amongst whom also are to be found the guarantors and securities necessary to place it on a business and legal footing.

The proprietors, basing their estimates upon the most valuable information from the various Ports in China and Japan, from Australia, California, Singapore, Penang, Saigon, and other places frequented by the Chinese, consider themselves justified in guaranteeing a large and ever-increasing circulation. The advantages offered to advertisers are therefore unusually great, and the foreign community generally will find it to their interest to avail themselves of them.

The field open to a paper of this description—conducted by native efforts, but progressive and anti-obstructive in tone—is almost limitless. It on the one hand commands Chinese belief and interest, while on the other it deserves every aid that can be given to it by foreigners. Like English journals it contains editorial, with Local, Shipping, and Commercial News and Advertisements.

Subscription orders for the above may be sent to
GEO. MURRAY BAIN,
China Mail Office.

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